



INDEPENDENT INQUIRY CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION CORE PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

1. On 2 May 2019 the Inquiry invited anyone who wished to be designated a core participant in the investigation into Child Protection in Religious Organisations and Settings to make an application to the Solicitor to the Inquiry by 13 June 2019.
2. On 3 May 2019 an application was initially made by PR-X1 and PR-X2 for core participant status in this investigation.
3. The application was made on the basis that PR-X1 and PR-X2 have over 50 years experience in the Jehovah's Witnesses organisation. They have since '*cut their ties*' with the organisation. It is said that PR-X1 and PR-X2 have expertise and insight to offer, and that they would be able to provide copies of official documents regarding the Jehovah's Witnesses '*Child Protection Policy*' together with comments regarding how allegations of child sexual abuse are handled in practice by the organisation.
4. On 5 July 2019 I issued a provisional determination indicating that I was not minded to grant the application for core participant status. However, the investigation team did issue a request to both PR-X1 and PR-X2 for written evidence and supporting documents to assist this investigation.
5. Further representations were made relating to their application by PR-X1 and PR-X2 on 15 and 17 November 2019. In particular, they have submitted that they are in the unique position, as a result of the roles that they held within the Jehovah's Witnesses and their very long association with the Jehovah's Witnesses. They have said that they are ideally placed to identify attempts, by the Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, to "*mislead, misinform and misdirect*" the Inquiry.
6. The Inquiry has published a [definition of scope](#) of investigation and an [update note](#) which provides further information about the themes that will be examined and



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structure of the investigation. This investigation will be thematic in nature and examine the nature and adequacy of current child protection policies, practices and procedures within religious organisations and settings within England and Wales.

7. Applications for core participant status are considered under Rule 5 of the Inquiry Rules 2006 which provides:

(1) The chairman may designate a person as a core participant at any time during the course of the inquiry, provided that person consents to being so designated.

(2) In deciding whether to designate a person as a core participant, the chairman must in particular consider whether –

a. The person played, or may have played, a direct and significant role in relation to the matters to which the inquiry relates;

b. The person has a significant interest in an important aspect of the matters to which the inquiry relates; or

c. The person may be subject to explicit or significant criticism during the inquiry proceedings or in the report, or in any interim report.

(3) A person ceases to be a core participant on –

a. the date specified by the chairman in writing; or

b. the end of the inquiry.

8. In determining the application, the matters listed in Rule 5(2) must be considered, but the list is not exhaustive and I may also take into account other relevant matters.

9. Having carefully considered all of the information submitted by PR-X1 and PR-X2, and all of their further representations, I remain of the view that PR-X1 and PR-X2's application does not meet the criteria set out in Rule 5(2)(a) or (b) for designation as a core participant in this investigation.

10. This is not an investigation focusing upon the Jehovah's Witnesses. As set out in the update note, the focus of this investigation is upon organisational structures and child protection practices. Instead it will look at whether there are common issues across



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religious organisations and settings and how they can be met and overcome. The Jehovah's Witnesses are just one such organisation from which the Inquiry will hear. I note that the Inquiry has already designated as a Core Participant an organisation which includes former members of the Jehovah's Witnesses, including former elders.

11. The information that PR-X1 and PR-X2 have provided is useful, and will be considered in the course of this investigation. However, I do not consider that they have a significant interest in or played a direct and significant role in the overarching themes being examined in this investigation.

12. I will keep the scope of the investigation and the designation of core participants under review as the Inquiry progresses and further invitations to apply for core participant status may be made as the investigation proceeds. My decision not to designate PR-X1 and PR-X2 as core participants in this particular investigation does not preclude them from making a future application in respect of any investigation. I will consider any future application which PR-X1 and PR-X2 wish to make on its merits.

Professor Alexis Jay OBE
Chair, Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse

7 February 2020